

Urban Architecture of Criminal Factors

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ABSTRACT

By formation of the human being societies and formation of the cities increased the crime and the more extensive the societies, the greater the crime domain and prevention and planning to prevent the crime is unavoidable. The experts in sociology and criminology studied the crime and prevention strategies from each aspect. It should be considered that the effective role of society's management is important as it is considered as urban management. Most of the state systems as the components of urban management in their duty domain delegated some responsibilities as general and specific legal rules to the people and considered its violation as offence. Thus, the offender should be punished and the systems by the current rules have some duties and tasks and ignoring them cause the occurrence of crimes. Municipality, Jihad Keshavarzi management, natural resources office, Islamic guidance and culture office, physical education office, etc are the systems with direct association with the citizens and the lack of suitable planning and unsuitable performance of some of the systems caused that great amount of the files in the legal system is dedicated to these systems. The design and layout of the buildings, considering urban furniture and public parks, public recreations in the forest outside the cities, determining the border of the villages and guiding plans implementation to avoid transgression to the agricultural land and gardens, determining the border and determining the national land domain with warning boards, developing sport spaces and management of sport spaces as non-profit, holding national and religious festivals beyond leisure time of people are all the measurements done by authorities of urban management and its correct implementation can have important role in reduction of crime. The present study investigated the duties and tasks of some of the state systems and emphasized on the effective role of their function on prevention of crime and the reduction of crime and criticized their performance.

KEYWORDS: Urban architecture; Urban crimes; Marginal sector.

INTRODUCTION

One of the effective factors in crime occurrence is the social and living environment and investigating some issues as quality and architecture of housing and urbanization in the various societies and cities of a country or different townships of a city determined the effect of the environment on delinquency.

The type and quality of the architecture and urbanization have considerable effect on reduction or increase of the crime occurrence, this is not considered mostly in approving the law as most of the crimes were due to the lack of restoring order, security and public comfort, it means that not considering the architecture and urbanization is correct and the lack of effective criminal performance warranty in the rules of urbanization and architecture increased the problem.

In the historical review of the topic, it can be said that the role of architecture and urbanization in reduction of the crimes was considered by most of the law makers. For example, in Hamurabi law based on various crimes, this issue is mentioned.

Article 22 of the law stated: "If an architect builds a house and the house is destroyed out of his negligence and the owner is dead, the builder of the house should be killed also. But if the house destruction leads to the death of the son of the landlord, the boy of the builder is doomed to death".

Although this article was criticized as the punishment was personal and the lack of consistency between the punishment and the committed crime, it showed the significance of the type and quality of the architecture and its role in the crimes (reduction or increase) in that era and it also prevented the negligence of the architect and also it progressed the architecture and urbanization.

Urbanization and the architecture of the buildings had direct relation with crime. Thus, some of the countries in criminal architecture domain acted as systematically and considered this issue in the design of the buildings and cities and it prevented the crime as possible.

For example, if we considered the files in the courts or police stations of the south and marine of Tehran, it can be said that a great part of the crimes is occurred out of the quarrel of the residents in an alley or street due to the lack of a private parking to park the vehicles and the lack of streets and alleys in accordance with the systematic

urbanization standards and this led to the quarrel and occurrence of crimes and disorder in social order. The construction of the residential buildings in industrial and business regions and vice versa, the increase of the small industrial and manufacture workshops in the residential areas increased the crime occurrence.

The construction of apartments by new methods without observing the systematic engineering standards as the lack of observing the distances between the units, the dominance of the buildings to each other, shared areas, etc increased the existing disputes in residential complexes and by approving the supervising law and prediction of a good criminal good performance prevented such negligence.

In Urbanization area, the physical condition of the urban passages and green space had important role in reduction of crime. Dark and dim streets, unused and deserted buildings and townships and the areas around the great bridges, underpasses and areas around the Railway are potential places to increase the crimes as murder, rape, mischief, the gathering of the addicts and similar cases. With the investigation of the occurrence of the crimes in the main squares and streets of the city revealed that in terms of the existence of the cultural, social, economical, security and control centers and social supervision in these areas, the crimes were lower than the marginal areas in the city and it is the criminal ecology.

As the quality of architecture and urbanization had considerable effect on the mood of people, as the people residing in a corrupted city can not promote, thus in the design of the cities and urban architecture, the Islamic and Iranian architecture models in accordance with the social and cultural features of Iran are considered and in modeling the designs of other countries, there should be no violation of Islamic identity.

It is required that the squares, parks, residential areas, terminals and other centers are constructed based on Islamic and Iranian architecture models and in urban architecture, from the parks to the squares to the city itself including the commercial, residential and administrative buildings should be as the city space is a symbol of ethical and religious principles. Thus, some crimes are reduced and social security is increased. Now, the attempt is done to propose a bright perspective for urban management. Unfortunately, the housing in great cities is as people without considering the other conditions thinking about providing a good housing for themselves but the authorities should approve the related rules by the comments of the experts of the various organizations, prominent engineers and law makers and consider the important role of architecture and urbanization in reduction of the crimes and increase of social security.

Statement of the problem

Various regions in any country or city had special features in terms of the degree and different types of crimes. The changes in geography regions have important role in occurrence of crime. To cope with the crimes, at first the characteristics of each region should be identified and the related causes of crime should be investigated.

As the city and building can not be considered as crime factor, the conditions in the township cause crime and this factor should be emphasized specifically.

First section

Here two cases are used to determine the occurrence of crime from ecological aspects of urban crimes and the causes of crime are searched in the living environment of a person.

1- Living in marginal areas and criminal outcomes

According to revised article 2 of municipality law, the border and limit of each city and suburb were determined separately by municipality with approval of the city association and any all the residents and owners should get the required permission before any construction and building and establishing the public institutions. In accordance to article 2 of reform law of the passages, the municipality is obliged to provide the detailed map of the city in city development and send to the Ministry of the interior for ratification. With a brief view to the marginal areas in the city and aerial photos, it can be said that disorder in the township and passages and bridges and alleys were considered terribly. Indeed, the negligence of Municipality in providing master plan and not having the required attempts in avoiding unallowable construction caused such problems in the cities and had adverse effects. Some effects as population density of the marginal areas, the lack of prediction of the establishment of the supervision and security institutions, the inclination of the criminals to live in these areas, the establishment of the families without bread winner and other factors were caused due to the weakness of municipalities in controlling the construction of the margin of the cities. Thus, the correct implementation of the supervision duties on the construction of the margin of the cities and avoiding the nightly construction of the buildings can avoid the gathering of the criminals in these townships. Although great amount of the residents of these townships due to the low price of the houses are living in these regions and if these regions are built in accordance with the municipality principles and the passage and layout of the educational centers, supervision and control units are determined and designed already, it can avoid the increase of the delinquents. Indeed, the society has important role in the behavior of a person and according to some criminologists; the behavior of a person is developed by social and physical environment of people, not their genetic structure. Although robbery is occurred in the rich areas, most of the

convicts live in the marginal areas in the city and these townships are the best place to hide the robbed properties. As these townships are built without observing the municipality rules, they didn't have the urban services for long time and electricity and water robbery is common by various methods. Purposeful murder and group disputes are the crimes that are occurred due to the cultural and sub-cultural contradictions in these regions or the murderer lives in these townships. The threat against the public health due to the lack of urban infrastructures and releasing the domestic sewage in the alleys and unallowable slaughtering in the houses are the outcomes of living in these townships. In terms of structural form of the marginal township, the alleys are short and narrow with various spiral paths and drugs and wine are sold by the residents with comfort and the children living in these regions are familiar with the bargain of drugs from adolescences. Sexual harassment, whore houses and some houses to hide the criminals, all are the obvious effect of these regions and it is required that the municipalities with the help of other state institutions prevent the formation of the marginal townships to avoid these crimes.

2- The design of the public spaces and prevention and forming a secure environment for life beside other needs and human requirements: The prevalence of apartment life and increasing inclination of the urban residents to use the public spaces, parks and passing the leisure time of the children turned these places to a market for selling and buying drugs and begging area, robbery, pickpocket and the gathering of hooligans. Most of the parks in Iran, namely the parks being built in the great cities were designed at great levels and high trees with high density vegetation were used. Some of the parks are located in mountainous areas and they have natural problems with rising and falling areas (e.g. Jamshidie park and Saai park or Vakil Abad park in Mashhad or Park Jangali of Shahid Zare in Sari) with the growth of great amount of trees prevented a good view and despite good lightening, the supervision task of the authorities was faced with many problems. Thus, these places are turned into a good place for different types of social crimes. The children while playing in these parks besides the lack of life security are faced with immoral actions. It seems that the designing of these parks was not consistent with the tradition of Iranian culture and it is specially for the western countries with definite aims. It is required to take required attention in the design and locating of the parks and to use the leveled land with low height trees and adequate lightening instruments that besides the self-supervising task from the parents, the control operation by supervising institutions is done with low error and these places are less turned into the place for gathering of the delinquents.

Another issue is considering the religious beliefs and prevention of the honor crimes via observing the legal limitations of construction of the building and apartment. The life environment safety and immunity of the family members namely the girls and wives from seeing the strange men are the important issues in the families namely the religious people. The development of the construction of apartments without considering the cultural and Islamic criteria and dominance of these buildings on the neighboring houses, not observing the legal permissions by the municipalities to pay the fines of commission article 100 led to the crimes based on this issue. The behavior of the municipality authorities with these offences starting with the complaint of the neighbors is such that observing the rules of the limit of the buildings and the construction density were done for financing or be the income source of the municipalities and the rights of the neighbors and the cultural and religious limitations didn't have any role in formulating the rules. It seems that exact observation of the rules from the municipalities and considering the local and religious culture had important role in prevention of the crimes.

Second section

The principles to prevent the crimes via environmental design

Here, six principles are used in specific environmental positions and the crime is prevented by observing it.

1- Domain

Domain is the concept distinguishing the private space from semi-private space and its ownership creates the environment in which the strangers' presence is emphasized more and they are defined via the following methods:

- a. The development of legitimate ownership by improving the existing natural supervision in the control strategies of natural access by symbolic (non-physical) or social factors.
- b. The design of the space to permit the continual use and required aims
- c. Using pavement, perspective, fine arts (drawing, statue), symbols, plane and fences determine the space ownership.

As it can be said, domain plays an important role in ownership space, in apartment living, the shared ownership or in agricultural land, determining the border between two buildings is important.

2- Natural supervision

Natural supervision is a designing concept by which the bothering factors are supervised. The natural supervision helps the formation of the environment creating many opportunities for normal behaviors of people. The spaces can be designed as they are observed easily by the following methods:

- a. The design and location of the physical features to maximize the view

It is including: Building direction, windows, entrance, exit, parking, pavement, guard gateways, perspective trees and bushes, using the fences or wall, signs and other physical barriers.

- b. The position of the people or activities to maximize the supervision
- c. The minimum repair and lightening standards and lightening during the night in the parking, pavement, entrance, exit and other regions is necessary for safe environment.

3- Access control

Access control is a concept in design that is used to reduce the access to the crime and it means providing the natural access control and increasing the natural supervision to limit the criminal entrance namely in the regions that are not observed easily.

Thus, the hooligans are identified by the following ways:

- a. Using pavement, various floor covering, gateway, lightening and perspective to give guidance to the public via the entrance and exit
- b. Using the gateways, fences, walls, perspective and lightening to avoid people access to the dark areas or the regions without any supervision.

The environment being designed for a private space do two tasks.

First: It creates ownership feeling. The owners have common benefits and it is possible to fight against them or report to the police.

Second: Ownership space feeling creates the environment in which the strangers are identified and are seen easily.

The natural domain is promoted by the buildings, fences, floor covering, signs, lightening and perspective with the goal of identification of the owner and definition of the private and semi-private space are promoted.

4- Supporting the activity

Supporting the activity is planned for the space. The activity support is putting the activity where the people are involved in an activity and this is a part of natural supervision system. The examples are as:

- a. Putting the safe activities in the regions where the hooligans can not go and also to increase the natural supervision for the activities and safety feeling for the normal users and risk feeling for the hooligans.
- b. Putting risky activities in the safe places to cope with the vulnerability of these activities by natural supervision and access control to safe space.
- c. Locating the society spaces in the places where the natural supervision or access control are created or putting this space in the places away from the hooligans.
- d. Modification of the spatial planning for useful application and good density for the acceptable behaviors.

5- Repair and Maintenance

Suitable perspective repair, lightening and other cases can facilitate the natural access control and promote the domain and natural supervision. These activities are:

- a. Repair and maintenance of the lightening equipments in accordance with the standards.
- b. Determining these organized concepts can guide the owners, architects, planners and manufactures in the design of the built environment.

A multi-storey administrative building with a lobby and some lifts and an information center is designed to be self-service. Then, some crimes are occurred in the lobby as pick pocketing and purposeful vandalism, etc. The landlord of the building installed a close circuit TV. Some security guards were employed to see the close circuit TV. Before the installation, everybody was coming and going easily but now they feel insecure and they are seen by this camera and now a security guard was employed to be in this place.

Physical safety

Regarding the physical safety about most of the construction projects, there is a reality that the people as the designer of the project don't understand the crime and how it is occurred. The bad result of such action can be seen easily in the robbery in commercial regions (installation of metal burglar alarm). The safety planning can be important considerably in general success of the project. The suitable use of the safety hardware and elimination of the safety weakness from structural points can have an important role in the future of the crime issue.

6- Lightening

Good lightening is one of the most effective barriers of crimes. When the light is used effectively, it creates fear for criminal activities and develops the natural supervision facilities and reduces the fear of people of darkness. The type and quality of light is different from one user to another one but there is a shared goal: A fixed level of light should stay during night as reasonable.

The pure level of light providing the standards of minimum view is less important than light homogeneity.

The areas hiding the potential rapist should be brighter than the regions being designed for normal activities. The project should reveal the crimes without being a victim. Lightening also plays an important role in inducing border feeling in a person. A bright place is better than a dark and dim place.

Providing a good feeling about the person environment is important in increasing the pride and ownership.

Third section

The current condition of the prevention methods of the crimes via the environmental design in Iran

Today, the tissue of Iran cities is changed. The townships and friendly relations of the old times are gone and this led into the lack of supervision. Nobody can recognize the strangers and ownership and border is meaningless now. This is observed more in the great cities. The crimes are occurred more in the great cities. Security is an important factor for residency and it is created only by the security guard and the police and the residents have no responsibility in establishing security by the public supervision. Now the public spaces are some places for selling and buying drugs and gathering of the hooligans and it is a place for various crimes. The crimes are different based on the different kinds of the places and spaces.

Before in Iran and other countries, the urban spaces are including the squares and streets being designed and defined. But in the recent period, when the accesses (highways, bridges, junctions, etc) can find their identity in the city and they create spaces that are missed and they can not be supervised or they don't exist. Thus, they are turned into the non-defendable spaces. It can be said that non-defendable space is the effect of the events occurred in the cities. The non-defendable spaces have special performances as unsuitable from some aspects: From littering to using the drugs, robbery, begging, gathering of hooligans, violence, using drugs and sale, etc.

In 1960s, a few highways were constructed and the western countries only considered the quality of urbanization of the cities and found that these missed spaces led to various issues and they try to find some solutions for the spaces and defining these spaces as urban spaces. Later, these experiences were reflected in Iran and Iran took some measurements in this regard. For example, Tehran Municipality controlled the spaces under the bridges and underpasses and by creating some equipment turned it to a live urban space for the citizens. If there is natural supervision in these spaces, the spaces can be suitable urban space. But if all the aspects of urban space are not suitable and there is no consideration of the light and public supervision, this space is turned into a non-defendable space.

This showed that public spaces are not equipped as all the social groups as women or children or disabled can use them as equally.

In addition, no consideration is given to urban furniture and the required problems. But the reality is that urban furniture and its design is an important factor in creating non-defendable space. Such as aerial bridges or underpasses or advertisement boards.

Some guidance in using the principles of avoiding the crimes by environmental design in Iran.

Prevention of the crimes by environmental design is not a new issue. Our ancestors observed this issue in the design of the cities and townships. Today, we are responsible to design our life environment as the safety is increased and this improved our life quality. In some cities, there are some solutions as rules and law. For example, at nights all the stores should turn on the windows of their shops due to some spaces in the window of their shops. Another solution is making these spaces alive under the public supervision as the urban spaces are designed as the people seeing them can control these spaces. Because there are some corners in the dark that are not controlled by people and they are turned into the non-defending spaces. Thus, all the cities in Iran should be investigated. All the spaces should be defined and suitable solutions should be considered. The solutions can be used in the arrangement of the urban furniture. The important point here is that the studies should be based on local features and the solutions should be based on the local information. Thus, prevention of the crimes by environmental design in Iran is necessary and it can be done by following the below items:

- 1- Based on the global experiences and concepts
- 2- Based on the religious beliefs and culture

The next stage is the definition of the global concepts by the local-religious beliefs and culture. Islam emphasized on the acceptable and forbidden relationship between man and woman and it dictated special rules as the main principle in the Islamic society and the rules guided us to the special methods in environmental design.

The spaces that besides the safety against various crimes should protect the girls and women against the strange men. Thus, in our society, the urban spaces besides security should be coverage for people.

The urban design in prevention of crime

One of the constructive factors of good quality in human life is the "safety of living place" and protection of people in the society from the dangers, pollution and abnormality in the living place. John Leng, the famous American theorists proposed other human physiological needs such as food, shelter, health and security and protection against the dangers and pollution.

A safe environment for life besides the other main physiological needs and comfort without any anxiety is an important requirement in human life.

Feeling insecure in the environment and concerns of the insecure places affected the other human activities and economical, cultural, society affairs are not done accurately and in some cases, the social routine activities are disturbed.

Social abnormalities and urban environment crimes are the main cases of insecurity in living place and it disturbs the security of the cities and disturbs the comfort of people. Human being in his own house or outside and in public areas is faced with different types of crimes and social abnormalities and they threat the citizens.

Some of the adverse effects of insecurity and concerns of the unsafe places in living place are as:

- The anxiety and concern in the living place and routine activities
- Evacuation of the place of the static population or negative growth in the population of the region
- Affecting the economical, cultural and social aspects
- Degradation of the social position of the region
- The movement of the old residents and residing of the abnormal people in the areas
- The low price of the buildings in the insecure regions compared to other regions
- The increase of the unused or deserted areas in the township

Thus, the old tissues are shown as unsuitable and abnormal environments in the city center. As in the health issue of the societies, the prevention of the disease is more important than healing, this issue is accepted generally and in urban crimes, prevention is important than any measurements done by the legal government and systems in a costly process to punish or banish the criminals or also educate them. Thus, prevention of the crimes is more important than the measurements done by the authorities in the society after committing the crime, in terms of economical aspects and the related saving and in terms of cultural and political dimensions. In USA, in the late 1960 and early 1970, the crime was increased and the politicians, policy makers, researchers and lectures searched for the practical ways to solve the problems of crime in the society. Among the presented solutions, the proposed solutions of the urban designers and architect engineers had the required criteria compared to the other solutions. The solution of the urban designers and architects was very simple:

The urban design and structural environment by observing the criminals and prevention of crime or helping to arrest the criminals affect the citizens' behavior. The structural environment can be used by the citizens via increasing the control and supervision in the urban spaces and public fields during the crime occurrence to reduce the crime.

Conclusion

The attempt to prevent the crimes specifically is not as the responsibility of the judiciary and other state systems including the municipality, Jihad Keshavarzi Management, natural resources, education department, physical education, etc as state institutions in urban management can have important and effective role. The performance of the municipalities in organizing the marginal area of the cities and planning in prevention of formation of these townships prevented the gathering of a great part of the criminals and the lack of manifestation of the personal capabilities are the result of being affected by social environment. Thus, the role of municipalities in prevention of crimes, forced occupation and property transfer via facilitating the issuance of the permission for fencing in the private and state land are some examples. Considering the design of public spaces as parks and religious tradition are some examples. The management of Jihad Keshavarzi and natural resources as other systems in the claim case of some criminal files by taking good decisions and meeting the necessary demands of the villagers and nomads can be effective in prevention of the crime.

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